

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 5, line 1 with the following:

The conveyor idler is rotatably connected to an idler shaft 14 which is co-axial with the conveyor idler. The idler shaft is formed from steel and in the embodiment shown in FIG. 1 has a diameter of 25 mm. The diameter of the idler shaft can be varied depending on the specific application. The ends of the idler shaft are fixed to a frame 17 of a conveyor belt arrangement [(not shown)] 15. The conveyor idler is rotatably connected to the idler shaft by means of bearing assemblies 16 which engage an inner surface of the conveyor idler and run on the idler shaft. The bearing assemblies are retained in position by end caps 18 which fit over the idler shaft and into either end of the conveyor idler in a press fit configuration. The end caps are made from a thermoplastics material and include a seal arrangement (not shown) which prevents the ingress of dirt into the conveyor idler and the bearing arrangements. A conveyor belt [(not shown)] 15 runs on the outside surface of the conveyor idler.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 6, line 57 with the following:

FIGS. 5 to 7 show another embodiment of the braking mechanism according to the invention. The braking mechanism 10.1 is once again adapted for use with a hollow conveyor idler 12. The conveyor idler is rotatably connected to an idler shaft 14 which is co-axial with the conveyor idler. As with the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1 to 4, the conveyor idler is rotatably connected to the idler shaft by means of bearing assemblies (not shown) which again engage an inner surface of the conveyor idler and run on the idler shaft. The bearing assemblies are retained in position by end caps (not shown) which fit over the idler shaft and into either end of the conveyor idler in a press fit configuration. A conveyor belt [(not shown)] 15 runs on the outside surface of the conveyor idler.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 8, line 19 with the following:

Referring now to FIGS. 8 to 16, a conveyor idler 60 includes a drum or sleeve 62. The sleeve 62 has an outer surface 64 which is in use in contact with a conveyor belt [(not shown)] 15, and an inner surface 66. The sleeve 62 is rotatable in forward direction about a shaft 68 via bearings 70 supported in end caps 72.